

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 11 are pending, with claims 1 and 11 amended, and claims 2, 12, 25 and 26 cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Claims 1 and 11 are independent.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,204,886). Claims 25 and 26 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 and 11 are amended to recite the allowable features of claims 26 and 25, respectively, as well as intervening claims 2 and 12, respectively. Accordingly, the application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael E. Monaco, Reg. No. 52,041, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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